

# ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH

A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY

WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER

COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE



**April 9, 2023**

**EASTER** // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE

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Liturgist: Dawn Cooper Barnes

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## WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

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PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer  
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONGS

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” (GTG #591)

SJU Chancel Choir  
and congregation

Halle, halle, hallelujah  
Halle, halle, hallelujah  
Halle, halle, hallelujah  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today!” (GTG #245)

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!  
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP

The clouds are breaking, a new day is dawning, and there is a soft rumble in the earth.  
Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen, indeed!**

The stone has been rolled away! The tomb is empty! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed!**

After three days in the cold, still silence of the grave, Jesus is not here. Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed!**

The empire tried to stop him. Death was powerless to contain him. Evil could not destroy him. Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed!**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed!**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed! Hallelujah!**

#### OPENING PRAYER

**God our creator, Jesus our risen Savior, and Holy Spirit who inhabits our praise, we rejoice today in the good news that life triumphs over death and love triumphs over hate. The work has been completed once and for all!**

**We gather in worship to sing and proclaim this gospel—that Christ came to make all things new. As we celebrate resurrection today, let our hearts be filled with the rejuvenating spirit of Easter. Let joy pour into the places in our lives feeling lifeless and lost. Let us find hope of new life in our friends, family, and neighbors. And may our worship bring glory to your name. Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 10:34 – 43

#### ANTHEM

“Joy in the Morning”

SJU Chancel Choir

Natalie Sleeth

There'll be joy in the morning on that day  
There'll be joy in the morning on that day  
For the daylight will dawn when the darkness is gone  
There'll be joy in the morning on that day

There'll be peace and contentment evermore  
There'll be peace and contentment evermore  
Every heart, every voice on that day will rejoice  
There'll be peace and contentment evermore

And the glory, glory, glory of the Lord will shine, will shine  
And the glory, glory, glory of the Lord will bring the truth divine

There'll be love and forgiveness everywhere  
There'll be love and forgiveness everywhere  
And the way of the Lord will that day be restored  
There'll be love, sweet love everywhere

#### SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:1 – 18

#### TIME WITH CHILDREN

The Tomb is Empty  
Lenten Coin Calendar conclusion

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

#### MESSAGE

**OPEN TO THE IMPOSSIBLE**

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

OFFERTORY SONG  
OF REFLECTION

“He Lives”

UM #310

I serve a risen Savior  
He's in the world today.  
I know that He is living,  
Whatever they may say.  
I see His hand of mercy;  
I hear His voice of cheer;  
And just the time I need Him  
He's always near.

*Refrain*

*He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.  
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives?  
He lives within my heart.*

In all the world around me  
I see His loving care,  
And though my heart grows weary,  
I never will despair;  
I know that He is leading,  
Through all the stormy blast;  
The day of His appearing  
Will come at last.

*Refrain*

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian,  
Lift up your voice and sing  
Eternal hallelujahs  
To Jesus Christ the King!  
The Hope of all who seek Him,  
The Help of all who find,  
None other is so loving,  
So good and kind.

*Refrain*

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Gracious God, there is no greater love than the love you showed us through Jesus, who lived and walked among us. Now, as Jesus is seated at your right hand, we celebrate the never-ending, abundant life of Easter. We cannot repay you, and we cannot respond with perfect behavior, because we are human and all we have is yours. We respond with our offerings and gifts, knowing you will multiply them and use them to further your reign of love and justice on earth. You take our best attempts at generosity and create something beautiful. Receive them today, and grant us wisdom to use them in our community. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm the resurrection of our faith. Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed!**

The righteous Son of God and Man has defeated death.

**Let all of creation proclaim the glory of the risen Christ.**

We have seen the resurrection power of Christ in our world today. When chains are broken, and prisoners go free,

**Christ is risen among us.**

When children are heard, loved, and respected,

**Christ is risen among us.**

When weapons are destroyed, and violence ceases,

**Christ is risen among us.**

When every person of every gender, sexuality, dress, and presentation is welcome in all things,

**Christ is risen among us.**

When all bodies are safe, whether weak or strong,

**Christ is risen among us.**

When all emotions are welcome, and communication is open,

**Christ is risen among us.**

When access is available to all abilities, and no one is excluded,

**Christ is risen among us.**

When the powerful repent, serve, and step back,

**Christ is risen among us.**

When the oppressed are liberated and teach us the way,

**Christ is risen among us.**

When we are transformed into the body of Christ and become a blessing to our community and our world,

**Christ is risen among us.**

The tomb is empty, death is defeated, and eternal life is available to all today.

**Let the redeeming power of the risen Christ be proclaimed to all the earth. Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

“Amen, Amen”

PH #299

*Refrain:*

*Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen!*

See the little baby lying in a manger  
on Christmas morning.

*Refrain*

See Him in the temple talking to the elders;  
how they all marveled!

*Refrain*

See Him at the seashore preaching to the people,  
healing all the sick ones!

*Refrain*

See Him in the garden praying to the Father  
in deepest sorrow!

*Refrain*

See Him on the cross bearing all my sins  
in bitter agony!

*Refrain*

Yes, He died to save us and He rose on Easter;  
Now He lives forever!

*Refrain*

Alleluia! Jesus is my Savior,  
And He lives forever!

Amen, Amen, Amen!

## BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

People of God, listen to these words of the apostle Paul as our resurrection benediction: When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then these words will be fulfilled:

*'Death has been swallowed up in victory.'*

*'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?'*

*The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed!**

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer  
accompanist

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*Readings are NRSV unless otherwise noted. CEB=Common English Bible; CEV=Contemporary English Version; KJV=King James Version; MSG=The Message; NIV=New International Version; NLT=New Living Translation; TIB=The Inclusive Bible*

### **Acts 10:34 – 43**

10:34 Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality,

10:35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

10:36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all.

10:37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:

10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

10:39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;

10:40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,

10:41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

10:42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.

10:43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

## John 20:1 – 18

### The Resurrection of Jesus

**20** Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." <sup>3</sup> Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples returned to their homes.

### Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup> and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup> When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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